

A3 39. (Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement leading to a first site and a second medical implement leading to a second site, said valve comprising a body having a cavity, said body having a first port for connection to a [said] first medical implement and having a second port adapted to receive a [said] second medical implement[,]; and a rigid seal connected to said body and movable between a first position in which said seal obstructs fluid flow through said body between said ports, and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said body, said valve defining a fluid space between said ports and further including means positioned within the body for reducing said fluid space within said valve when one of said medical implements is disconnected.

Please add the following new Claims 40 and 41:

B2 40. (New) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a body having a cavity in communication with a second medical implement, an opening adapted to receive a first medical implement, and a sealing element positioned within said body and movable between a first position in which said seal prevents fluid flow through said body and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said body, said cavity including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected, said sealing element comprising a piston movably mounted with respect to said body, said piston having a head for engagement by said first medical implement, said head having a slanted surface.

41. (New) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a body having a cavity in communication with a second medical implement, an opening adapted to receive a first medical implement, and a sealing element positioned within said body and movable between a first position in which said seal prevents fluid flow through said body and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said body, said cavity including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected, said sealing element comprising a piston movably mounted with respect to said body, said piston dividing said cavity into a first fluid filled chamber and a second, air-filled chamber, said piston including a hollow recess in communication with said air-filled chamber.